

## 19-Year Resident Becomes V. F. W. Commander Here

Installed at joint ceremonies of the post and Auxiliary last Thursday night, Commander L. E. Stanley of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Torrance Post No. 3251, this week began guiding the organization here thru its second year. He succeeded the post's first commander Lee Balaam at the election April 10 and will preside over his first regular meeting May 8. At that time, Commander Stanley will announce his committees and program for the year.

"Our post now has about 50 members," he said this week. "We are formulating a program of patriotic and civic activities with particular interest in the betterment of Torrance young people. The V. F. W. has a long and honorable record of achievement and we hope to add to that record with our activities in Torrance."

Stanley has lived at 1962 Carson st. for 19 years. He has been a machinist at the Columbia Steel plant for 14 years and served as a Torrance motorcycle officer in 1925-26. He has been a resident of California for 41 years. Commander Stanley was born in Holton, Kansas, and his wife is treasurer of the V. F. W. Auxiliary and active in the Methodist church organization. The Stanleys have a son, Lester Jr., who is 20 and is employed as a student machinist at the National Supply Company; and two daughters, Audrey, 18, a cosmetician in Redondo Beach and Lorraine, 15, who is attending Torrance high school.

### Wears "Cootie" Badge



L. E. STANLEY  
his badge causes interest

try to brush it off and then enjoy a good laugh with the "Cootie" member as he explains what it is. The badge is clearly visible in the picture of Commander Stanley accompanying this story.

### Active Units

Members of the Post and Auxiliary attended the joint installation of Compton Post and Auxiliary unit Monday evening. The group also were present at the Boys' Week program held at Gardena high school last Friday evening. On Wednesday they attended installation of officers of the Post and Auxiliary at Lomita.

A large group of members were present at the institution of the Torrance Auxiliary preceding the installation here last Thursday evening.

Member of "Cooties"  
The new V. F. W. leader served in the U. S. Navy from April 1917 until after the Armistice. His rating was chief storeroom keeper and he was paid off while attached to the U. S. S. Cheyenne, since decommissioned. During World War I he was on convoy and patrol duty in the Atlantic.

As a member of the "Cooties", the fun-making unit of the V. F. W., his badge of membership intrigues many who are unacquainted with that organization. Worn on the left coat collar near the neckline, this badge consists of a replica of one of those ubiquitous insects which were the bane of many a sailor's and doughboy's life in 1917-18.

Many who see it from a distance of more than two feet

## Another Delay Blocks Airing of Civil Service Law

Further consideration will be given the long awaited and much discussed civil service ordinance governing employment of all city employees (and said to include the newly-appointed city judge and other appointive officers) before it is made public. The delay was announced by Councilman Vern Babcock at an adjourned meeting of the city council late yesterday afternoon.

"At the last meeting I said the civil service ordinance would be introduced at this session," Babcock said. "But one councilman and several employees want to study it further and so I will say that it will be brought out at the next meeting of the council." This will be on Tuesday, May 13, at 7:45 p. m.

It is reported that an attempt will be made under the proposed ordinance to "freeze" newly-appointed City Judge Shidler in his position and thus forestall any future moves to re-instate former Judge Robert Lessing, who was ousted recently over heated protests of a crowded council chamber. Other appointive officers such as the city engineer, city engineer, city electrician, street superintendent, and the water department would also be put under civil service according to unofficial reports.

Expert Gives Opinions  
Because of the many conflicting reports concerning civil service procedure under the amended state law, The Herald interviewed A. Beldon Gilbert, executive secretary of the California Civil Service Peace Officers Association, who was present at the council session yesterday. Gilbert is considered an authority on civil service law.

Once a civil service ordinance is passed by the city council, it may be broadened in its scope by future councilman action, but cannot be restricted except by vote of the electorate, Gilbert said.

Denying reports that such an ordinance must include all city employees, Gilbert said that any or all appointive officers, or any other exceptions could be made before the ordinance was passed.

As a long-time champion of civil service for all municipal employees, Gilbert believes that under such procedure it is easier to oust inefficient and incompetent workers than under the "spoils" system of patronage and privilege. Such removals cannot be made, however, without a formal hearing before the civil service board. At which time, definite charges must be made and proven. Furthermore, according to Gilbert, the defendant-employee is given a fair and impartial hearing.

The decision of the civil service board, following such hearings, must be followed by the city council and can only be overridden by a four-fifths vote of the council.

## No Draftees Are Wanted Here for Seventh Call

For the first time since the draft calls have been issued—and they started Nov. 22, 1940—no young men will be sent from the local district served by Selective Service Board No. 280 for the seventh call scheduled between May 5 to 7, it was learned this week from Carl Marsteller, clerk of the board.

Nine young men were included in the sixth call-out which left Torrance last Friday morning, but one, Shoji Yoshida, 24, fruit stand manager living in Gardena, was rejected by Army authorities on arrival at the Los Angeles induction center on account of his teeth. Eleven were scheduled to leave but last minute changes in the draft roster reduced this number to nine. They were:

- Fernando Rossi, 21, unemployed, 1221 225th st., Torrance.
- Jack Albert Hall, 25, truck driver, 1847 Redondo-Wilmington Rd., Lomita.
- Dolphus Curtis Gatlin, 35, laborer at Coast Insulating plant, 1744 Alhambra ave., Torrance.
- Fred Melvin Powell, 30, school janitor, 2110 Gramercy ave., Torrance.
- Donald James McFride, 26, streetcar motorman, 1115 West 190th st., Gardena.
- Raymond Young McAngus, 27, butcher, transfer from Austin, Texas.
- Ernest Franklin Fessenden, 21, aircraft factory assemblyman, 211 West 148th st., Moneta.
- John Chester Denton, 27, unemployed, Cravens Apts., Torrance.

## Council Studying Three Bids On Third City Bus

After opening three bids on the purchase of a third bus for the municipal transportation system which begins operations Monday, the city council recessed late yesterday afternoon to consider the quotations. On returning to the council chamber, after inspecting one of the new Ford buses which was parked in front of the city hall, the council approved Councilman Vern Babcock's motion to "reject all bids and refer the bids to the council as a whole" for further consideration.

The bus quotations offered the city were: Schultz and Peckham for a 27-passenger Ford bus identical with the two previously purchased by the city, \$5,040 basic price; Clark International Truck Corp., \$7,851.84 for a Mack bus; and Wilcox Chevrolet company of Torrance, \$7,985.85 for a Chevrolet bus.

A letter from the Steel Workers' Organizing Committee, local lodge No. 1414, was read to the council which stated that the C.I.O. unit here was opposed to the council's buying a Ford bus because "Ford products are still on the unfair list." The letter was filed on motion by Councilman John V. Murray.

## Home Building Projects to Get Right-Of-Way

Most of the adjourned meeting of the city council late yesterday afternoon was devoted to matters relating to new housing and purchase of water pipe and equipment to service new fire hydrants and new homes here.

Edward G. Nees, local builder, in a letter to the council asked that the municipal board give special preference to prospective builders of standard homes when the city completes purchase of tax-delinquent lots here and offers them for re-sale. Nees also urged the council to allow "blanket" bids for the purchase of groups of the lots.

The builder informed the council that he could guarantee the immediate construction of 10 or more F.H.A.-inspected homes on the now tax-delinquent lots if these two points were allowed. He also pointed out that such preference would eliminate speculative purchases and spur home construction.

### Was Legal Aide

City Attorney John McCall told the city board it could do anything it desired to do in regard to the re-sale of the lots now being acquired from the county with the assistance of the Associated Assessment Engineers. Some 90-odd lots are being considered for purchases. The Engineers informed the council yesterday that the purchase arrangements are nearly complete and the city should receive the tax-decids to the property "in 10 days or two weeks."

The request of the Engineers to retain a special city attorney to bring whatever quiet title actions are necessary in cases where title cannot be otherwise obtained will be discussed by the council with the engineering (Continued on Page 8-A)

## It's a Sequel



Statue of Leonardo da Vinci, which millions of Golden Gate Exposition visitors saw being erected by Frederick Olmsted in the World Project "Art in Action," is literally "nosed" into place for keeps. It's now adorning a building of San Francisco Junior College.

## Walteria 'Lake' Will Not Be Pumped Dry

Walteria's "inland sea" caused by flood waters will have to drain and evaporate naturally. All plans to pump the water to a natural sink have been abandoned as result of further investigations by Glenn Jain, acting city engineer. He told the Torrance city council late yesterday afternoon that instead of taking two or three weeks to pump out the water, using Quandt's pump, it would take five or six months.

Anyway, Japanese are no longer interested in the pumping because it is too late to plant any crops in the inundated area now.

## Joe Kalina Recovering From Broken Neck at Camp Ord Hospital

A few hours before he was to enjoy an Easter furlough and return home for a visit with his parents, Joe Kalina was struck by a truck during night maneuvers at Camp Ord and suffered a broken neck April 11, according to word received here this week. He is reported recovering and is not in a serious condition.

Kalina was drafted with the second contingent to leave Torrance on Jan. 20. His home address is 2349 West 235th st.

## Week's Building Totals \$7,500

Building permits, totaling \$7,500, were issued during the past week here to Charles W. Camp Oil Co. for demolition of a wooden oil derrick at 2348 238th st.; August F. Butth for a five-room frame and stucco house and two-car garage at 1314 Greenwood ave., \$5,850; L. D. Young for a frame garage at 907 Madrid ave., \$100; and the General Petroleum Corp. for a stucco watchman's house at the Torrance refinery on 190th st., \$3,475.

## Parents Bid to High School for Classes Tonight

Parents of high school students and others will have the opportunity tonight to attend all classes in which their children study and ask questions of the teachers. In observance of Public Schools Week, Miss Elizabeth Parks, vice-principal, has arranged for a program typical of a school day except that the study periods will be shorter.

The evening's "sample school" will begin at 7 o'clock. Parents will be asked to register at the main entrance of the high school and then follow their children thru the various classes where teachers will conduct regular, tho brief, sessions.

Principal Thomas Elson said that this kind of Public Schools Week observance should be most interesting to parents and other adult friends of the students because it will show exactly how the studies are conducted.

## Boys Take Over City Jobs and Firms for Day

Yesterday's rains somewhat curtailed observance here of National Boys' Week as scheduled tours to various points of interest were cancelled by James Burchett, high school faculty member, who was in charge of arrangements. Nevertheless scores of local boys were interested visitors at city offices and business firms here.

Mayor-for-the-day was Clifford Powell, son of Councilman George V. Powell. Other boy city officials and city workers were: Guy DeWitt, police chief; Dick Leech and Bill Parton, co-fire chiefs; Jim Deems, city clerk; Ernest Banks, city judge; Ralph Pina, city engineer; Gerald McDonald, police captain; Conrad Christensen, police sergeant; Richard Pierson, motor officer; Bud Anderson, policeman; and Hoyt Moore and Able Coast, firemen.

Clifford Totten and Richard Faxman were stationed at The Herald to learn the business management of a newspaper.

Others who visited local firms and studied their methods of operation were: Clair Johnson and Glenn Hall, Safeway store; George Snow and Bob Lewellen Jr., Penney's department store; Walter Hammond, El Prado Furniture store; James Daniels and Douglas Crawford, Star Furniture Company; and Philip Hoffman, Levy's department store.

## Frolic Group Will Elect Heads Tonight

Officers to direct the 1941 Torrance Factory Frolic are scheduled to be chosen tonight during a meeting to be held by the advisory committee at the Chamber of Commerce. The session, starting at 8 o'clock, will be attended by Wallace H. Gilbert, Dr. C. L. Ingold, John Elder, Robert McCallum, J. A. Evans, Mrs. W. L. Laughon, Mrs. J. J. Miller, C. B. Barrington and Michael Strasser. They are also slated to appoint committee chairmen for the fourth annual civic celebration next September.

## Recall Group Raps Council for Denying Use of City Building

Denouncing the city council for its refusal to permit the use of the Chamber of Commerce building for a meeting of the Recall Committee as "unfair and undemocratic and as a brazen attempt to stifle the American right to freely assemble and freely express opinions on public questions," a group of citizens active in the movement to oust Councilmen

## Many Technical Books Available at Library Here

Want to learn? There's a large collection of up-to-the-minute technical books available for local men at the Torrance public library.

Mrs. Dorothy Jamieson, librarian, this week called attention to this service and said that she will be glad to secure other educational volumes as desired.

Among the subjects covered in the books now at the library are welding, ship and pipe fitting, steel heat treatment, aeronautical engineering, mechanical arithmetic, shop mathematics, foundry and blast furnace handbooks and stationary engineering.

## New Torrance Bus Line to Start May 5

Ready to begin service early Monday morning, May 5, the two new buses purchased recently as the first units of the Torrance Municipal Bus System are on display today and tomorrow in front of the triangular park at Sartori and Marcelina aves. and in front of the Torrance city hall. Saturday they will be turned over to the five drivers hired by the city for their training.

One of the Asbury Rapid Transit buses will be leased by the city as a "stand-by" and extra service vehicle until a third bus is purchased.

L. J. Gilmeister, manager of the municipal bus line, announced that 19 runs will be made daily by the Torrance system instead of the 12 heretofore made by the Asbury line under lease to the city. The third bus will make a trip in the morning to accommodate the "peak" load at that time and again in the evening will be put in service from Los Angeles to handle the heavy patronage. The Los Angeles terminal will be at 945 South Hill street.

Extra Service in City  
On Sundays the buses will make but two trips, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Two trips daily to and from Walteria are planned, Gilmeister said. These will leave at 6:44 a. m. and at 5:54 p. m.

A map showing the route of the municipal bus line and also the extra Torrance service is published on Page 3-B of this edition. This shows that Torrance residents will find their buses driving from Carson and Arlington west on Carson to Madrid, Madrid to Torrance Blvd., Torrance Blvd. to Caballo, Caballo to Carson and thence out Carson to Normandie and Los Angeles. (Continued on Page 8-A)

## Property of the People

The resolution unanimously adopted by the Recall Committee follows:

"BE IT RESOLVED: That a protest be communicated to the city council of the City of Torrance condemning their action in refusing the use of the Chamber of Commerce building to this committee. That council be notified that this committee construes this action as unfair and undemocratic and as a brazen attempt to stifle the American right to freely assemble and freely express opinions on public questions.

"That it be further pointed out that the Chamber of Commerce building as well as the other civic buildings are the property of the people of Torrance and not the property of the individual councilmen and that this committee intends to call upon the people of this community to regard this action as evidence of the arbitrary and dictatorial position which has been adopted and maintained by the city council as a regular policy during the past year."

Petitions Out Friday  
At the Tuesday night meeting, members of the Recall Committee chose Attorney Mitschlich chairman. A number of committees were appointed to take charge of circulating petitions, raise funds and perform other activities of the campaign.

Under the State election code, petitions may be circulated beginning tomorrow (Friday), which is 21 days after the first notice of recall was published. To qualify as valid signatures on the petitions, each person signing must be a registered voter. The date of signing, address and occupation must also be given. Signatures must be identical with those on registration rolls.

In the meantime, other defendants in the case appeared in the Long Beach superior court and entered pleas of guilty. Mrs. May Ramsey, 57, mother of Mrs. Green, who was arrested in Seal Beach Monday on charges of performing illegal operations, plead guilty to one count of conspiracy and two of illegal operations. She was first arrested in raids Dec. 17, 1940 on houses near Torrance. In Palos Verdes and Los Angeles.

Her son, Claude Ramsey, 39; Grace Balch, 51, and Lillian Foster, 30, entered guilty pleas to the charge of conspiracy. William Crissman, 50, pleaded guilty to performing an illegal operation. May 20 was the day set by the court for hearing of probation petitions and sentencing.

## Abortion Ring Suspect Attempts Death by Poison

A few hours before she was to go to trial as a member of an alleged abortion ring operating in houses near Torrance, in Palos Verdes and Los Angeles, Mrs. Marguerite Green, 32; Tuesday attempted to end her life, sheriff's deputies reported. She was found unconscious in her home, 1011 West 223rd st. by a friend who said she apparently took an overdose of sleeping tablets.

In the meantime, other defendants in the case appeared in the Long Beach superior court and entered pleas of guilty. Mrs. May Ramsey, 57, mother of Mrs. Green, who was arrested in Seal Beach Monday on charges of performing illegal operations, plead guilty to one count of conspiracy and two of illegal operations. She was first arrested in raids Dec. 17, 1940 on houses near Torrance. In Palos Verdes and Los Angeles.

Her son, Claude Ramsey, 39; Grace Balch, 51, and Lillian Foster, 30, entered guilty pleas to the charge of conspiracy. William Crissman, 50, pleaded guilty to performing an illegal operation. May 20 was the day set by the court for hearing of probation petitions and sentencing.

## HIGHWAY GROUP SUPPORTS HAWTHORNE BLVD. PROJECT

A resolution urging immediate aid for the improvement of Hawthorne boulevard from Inglewood thru Hawthorne, Lawndale and Torrance to a junction with Highway 101 as a defense artery 180 feet in width was adopted by the Southwest District Highways Association at the annual dinner-meeting and election of officers last Friday night at the L. A. Airport cafe. The resolution was presented to the State Highway Commission at Stockton Saturday and taken under advisement.

Sam T. Hill of Inglewood was elected president of the high-ways group, succeeding Oscar L. Willett of Palos Verdes. Glenn M. Jain, acting city engineer in Torrance, was chosen second vice president. Other officers selected were Mayor Charles K. Belch of Manhattan Beach, first vice-president; Loren Howe of Hawthorne re-elected, and P. Ray Mowrey of Inglewood re-elected treasurer.

The support given the widening and improvement of Hawthorne boulevard includes the weight of all the South Bay cities. The resolution urged federal help to solve a traffic situation three or four times more difficult now than a few months ago, due to the huge influx of defense workers in this part of the county. It points out the vital importance of improving Hawthorne boulevard as a link between Los Angeles harbor, the three major airplane plants in the vicinity of the L. A. Municipal airport and the airport itself.



SAM HILL  
Glenn Jain his aide

## Burglar Suspect Arraigned in L.A.

Philip Gardner, 35, who was returned from Portland, Ore., April 6 to stand trial for burglary of Mrs. Iola Young's home at 1610 Cota ave., March 16, was arraigned yesterday in Superior Court. He has been held at the county jail since his arrest in the Oregon city by Police Chief John Stroth. His trial date has not been set.

## MARCH OF RINES

Some folks are born with a rabbit's foot, as sure as sure can be, in support of this I offer as proof a recent near tragedy. While riding along on a broad highway, that skirts a deep ravine, I came across an accident, the queerest I've ever seen. A car had just left its normal path and descended that dark abyss; a guard rail was broken and testified to an unwelcome, forcible kiss. I stopped and ran to peer over the side, expecting a horrible sight, but instead saw a car in a tangle of shrubs, apparently whole and upright. Beside it were standing three frightened young men, neither malingering, nor unconscious, nor dead; their clothes were quite spotless and, straight of all, not a sign that any had bled. Just how the thing happened, not one could recall; all sober, (of that there's some doubt); said one, "How we drove in this hole ain't the point, it's how in hell can we drive out."

NOAKE